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8 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : B Camera IRAN Cycle on SAC U-2's

1. I am advised that SAC has decided to change the IRAN cycle on their B cameras from the standard which we have attempted for our equipment in agreement with HYCON, namely, every 100,000 cycles or one year to 200,000 cycles or two years. As far as I have been able to determine, there is no rationale for this except that SAC's camera expert claims this is an acceptable extension of the cycle.

2. Recalling our recent difficulties with the B camera and the general admission by all concerned that since the equipment was getting older it demanded more frequent maintenance and IRAN, I find this development hard to comprehend. I am also aware that in the event camera troubles arise with BRASS KNOB missions henceforth, the Director is apt to feel that we should have exerted more influence than we presently plan to do to increase rather than decrease the frequency of inspection of these equipments.

3. I am not suggesting necessarily that we enter a campaign to educate SAC, but I do think you should know that the staff opinion here is that this development tends to increase the potential hazard of camera breakdowns for the Air Force and that you might wish to informally so indicate to the Director before anything unfortunate transpires.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Deputy Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

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